30. The data storage medium as claimed in claim 29, wherein, at the location of the thermal heating, the pretensioned information carrier has a locally changed optical density, in particular with a change in refractive index of about 0.2.

31. The data storage medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein the information units are formed by changing the optical properties in a region of less than 1 μm in diameter.

32. The data storage medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein the information units are designed for the storage of one of two states.

33. The data storage medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein the information units are designed in such a way that, at least at some points, no saturation of the information carrier change has taken place, and the information units are able to adopt more than two different states.

34. The use of a data storage medium in a data drive for a data carrier, as set forth in claim 18, in which a relative movement takes place between information units and reading head (2), with the data carrier generally being stationary and/or the reading head (2), especially in the central region of the wound body, rotating.--

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,

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